

Winter is here!

Whether we like it or not, the winter season has arrived; and with the cold weather, also comes winter storms, including high winds, heavy snow, freezing rain and black ice. To stay safe, it is important to prepare a disaster kit for the home and vehicle. The following tips were provided by the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness and the American Red Cross.

Winter Vehicle Safety Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight or battery-powered lantern and extra batteries
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Booster (jumper) cables
- Fire extinguisher (5 pounds, ABC type)
- First-aid kit
- Bottled water and nonperishable high-energy foods (granola bars, raisins, nuts, peanut butter or cheese crackers)
- Road/emergency flares
- Compass and road maps
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Shovel
- Tire repair kit and pump
- Extra jackets, hats, gloves, socks
- Bag of sand or non-clumping cat litter or rock salt
- Tow rope or chain
- Cell phone and charger or extra battery



Protecting Your Home

Every home should have a disaster supplies kit: a battery-operated radio, flashlight, matches, extra batteries and an extra set of house and car keys. Have an ample supply of wood for the fireplace and plenty of nonperishable foods that can be eaten without heating. Keep bottled water and juices on hand in case your power and water supplies are interrupted.

Other items to include in the kit are prescription medicines and nonperishable infant formula, especially if there is a chance that roads will be impassable.

For more information, visit <http://www.ocswa.ohio.gov> and <http://www.redcross.org/>.